

Remarks

Claims 7-11 remain in the application for consideration of the Examiner with claims 1-6 and 12-18 standing withdrawn from consideration.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding objections and rejections are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and following remarks.

The drawings were objected to under 37 CFR 1.121 because the drawings should exemplify more detail and better quality.

This objection is traversed.

Applicant respectfully submits that the replacement drawings file on December 12, 2005 exemplify more detail and better quality and meet the requirements under 37 CFR 1.121.

The drawings are in full compliance with 37 CFR 1.121.

Turning now to the art rejections, claims 7-11 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Chang.

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

It is respectfully submitted that Chang does not disclose or suggest the presently claimed invention including the locking mechanism including a tooth to lock the tether in place and a spring to cooperate with the tooth.

The examiner's attention is directed to column 2, lines 50-55 of Chang where Chang discloses a switch 122 slidably mounted thereon and configured to close the outlet 121 so as to keep the cord 2 at a fixed position as desired.

The switch 122 of Chang is subject to being accidentally disturbed, and consequently opening the outlet 121 and allowing the cord 2 to be moved from the fixed location.

In contrast, the locking mechanism including the tooth and spring of the present invention provides a more secure lock than Chang.

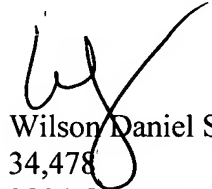
Claims 7-11 are patentable over the applied art.

In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and notice to that effect is respectfully submitted.

While it is believed that the instant response places the application in condition for allowance, and should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, it is requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned in order to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

If the Examiner should have any questions, Applicant's legal representative can be contacted at 214-893-8886.

Respectfully submitted;

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wilson Daniel Swayze, Jr.', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

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